



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Conservation Commission Minutes 05/16/2013**

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
May 16, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Catherine Garnett, Michelle Durocher, Curt Connors, Eileen Coleman, and David White of the Commission. Chris Naylor and Charles Tirone, of the Commission, were not present. Also present was Henry Davidson, Deborah Blanch, Andrea Kendall, Patrick Maguire, Stephen Biagioni, Dane Shine, Chris Brown and Justin Quattrini.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Garnett motioned to approve the 5/2 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davidson responded to the Commission's Notice of Noncompliance letter regarding cutting of trees next to Mill Brook adjacent to **Gold's Gym** and met with Ms. Beckwith at the site earlier this day. He said he had directed landscapers to clean out the area, to cut overhanging branches and a dead tree, but to also remove smaller trees in order to remove hiding places. The area has been used in the recent past by young people to drink alcohol. The Commission asked Mr. Davidson to prepare a planting/landscaping plan, with goals to replace the trees cut down, remove invasive plants, stabilize the embankment of Mill Brook and create a more attractive natural area that also provides habitat. Mr. Davidson will provide an update on this plan by the next meeting on 6/6/13 with the goal of having a plan submitted to the Commission by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

8pm – **Request for Determination of Applicability** - Mystic St, gas line replacement

Ms. Kendall presented the work to replace gas lines. Two natural gas pipes will be abandoned in place under Mystic St. Two new pipes will be installed in Mystic St and the adjacent sidewalk in the vicinity of Mill Brook and Cooke's Hollow. The wider 12 inch diameter pipe will stay within the roadway layout since it needs more cover, still encased within the bridge bed (not exposed underneath). Erosion controls are already in place at the bridge railing, and silt sacks are in the catch basins. Construction will take place through the summer, starting at the Summer St end of the project.

Connors/White motioned to issue a Determination of Applicability that although the project is within an area of jurisdiction that the work will not have an impact on the resource area and therefore no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm – **Notice of Noncompliance** – tree cutting at Arlington Catholic playing field

The school sent a letter response that the three trees were marked with x and they thought that the Conservation Commission had marked these for removal. No one on the Commission marked anything on the site. Three large Norway maples were cut down, according to project plans, one was 12 inch diameter tree and two were 18 inch diameter trees.

The school submitted a replanting plan in the area where the trees were cut down. White/Garnett motioned to approve the planting plan; motion passed unanimously.

The plan also shows a new path (of inch stone, from the basement door to Cusack Terrace to the field) that was installed to control erosion by users of and visitors to the field. Connors/Garnett motioned to approve the path as a

minor amendment to the approved permit plan, with the condition that it be maintained in the same form; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm – **Discussion** – Hemlock St Conservation land restoration

Mr. Quattrini presented photos of the work he has done to restore the conservation land to a more natural condition. The Commission will go take a look at the work in person, prior to the next meeting on June 6. The Commission will attempt to issue a compliance letter after this.

Other Commission Business, cont.:

Mr. Stevens got feedback on some questions on the tree replacement at the **Symmes Woods**. The tree replacement rate was already set in the documentation at 1 inch to 1 inch. The tree removal inventory is being recalculated to include Mr. Tirone's tree information as well as additional information from the site walk next week. The buffer area around the development will require more planting as well. There is a site walk on 5/22 and a meeting for a nascent Symmes Woods friends group.

Ms. Durocher reported that the **Waterbodies Fund** Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting before it adjourned last week.

Ms. Beckwith asked the Commission to review the stairway installation at **Window on the Mystic** for what level of permit would be required. Ms. Garnett responded that she would like confirmation that the design is robust enough to last and Mr. White wanted some review for drainage, which could be provided by review by AMC or other people with the kind of experience. Ms. Beckwith will ask Mr. Barwick if they have had the plan reviewed by AMC. If this review has taken place, then the Commission would issue a letter of approval.

Mr. Stevens looked at the approved planting plan for **Spy Pond Park** to review the area next to the shoreline for the recent park "clean up" which seemed very severe. He asked Ms. Beckwith to send him a copy of the operation and maintenance plan in the file.

The town is in need of a **snow disposal plan**. This topic was also discussed during Town Meeting, reported Ms. Durocher. Mr. Stevens thought that DPW, with the Town Engineer in the lead, should design this plan with Commission review. Mr. Stevens will write to DPW.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator